

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

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P R O C E E D I N G S

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 24, 1973

LLOYD J. AUTIN, Vice-Chairman,  
Presiding

Wild Life and Fisheries  
Building  
400 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana



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P R O C E E D I N G S

. . . The Board Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission convened at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, April 24, 1973, at the Wild Life and Fisheries Building, 400 Royal Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, Lloyd J. Autin, Vice-Chairman, presiding. . . .

PRESENT WERE:

L. J. AUTIN, Vice Chairman

D. G. BERRY

H. C. LUTTRELL

J. THOMPSON

(Chairman J. G. Jones arrived during the meeting and assumed the chair, as noted at that point in the proceedings.)

A G E N D A

LYLE ST. AMANT

1. Proposed dredging in Calcasieu River at West Lake, 3/4 miles north of I-10 Highway, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana, for sand and/or fill material by Rimmer (8)



& Garrett, Inc., General Contractors,  
of Rayne, Louisiana.

2. Ratify agreement between Radcliff Materials, Inc. and Ideal Cement Company whereby Radcliff Materials desires to issue a permit under their Pointe-Au-Fer agreement to Ideal Cement Co. to take and remove shells and shell deposits from the area covered thereby effective March 1, 1973 and to terminate March 22, 1975. (9)

JOE L. HERRING

3. Proposed Marsh Island legislation. (4)
4. Commission resolution pertaining to flood crisis. (51)
5. Ratify closing turkey season -- Point Coupee Parish. (54)

HARRY SCHAFER

6. Setting of the spring shrimp season. (12)

OTHER BUSINESS

7. Amendment to State Motor Boat Act. (56)
8. Issuing authority legislation as it pertains to sport hunting and sport fishing licenses. (57)



OTHER BUSINESS (Continued)

Discussion of Morganza Floodway situation.

(58)



CHAIRMAN AUTIN: We will ask Mr. Ensminger to propose --

MR. THOMPSON: Before that, do you want to tell them where the Director and Mr. Yancey are?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, go ahead.

MR. THOMPSON: By way of explanation, our Director, Mr. Angelle, and his assistant, Mr. Yancey, left at five o'clock this morning, going to the Southeast Directors Association meeting in Arkansas. I don't know if that is the correct terminology, but that is the reason for their absence here at the meeting today.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right, Allan. The proposed Marsh Island legislation.

MR. ALLAN ENSMINGER: Gentlemen of the Commission, as you all are well aware, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, during the 1971 session of the legislature, supported a bill that was passed and became law to set aside a portion of our annual income on Marsh Island for a perpetuation fund.

In the bill that was passed at that time, which was known as Act 62 of 1971, there was not a



specific clause included in it to spell out that the interest accrued from this perpetuation fund would become a part of the fund. This problem has come up with the State Treasurer's Office. She feels that this is in violation of the Idle Funds Act and therefore the Russell Sage Foundation, who is half-owner in the mineral rights to Marsh Island, has refused to permit additional leasing and mineral exploration work on the island.

It has been suggested by the State Mineral Board and the Russell Sage Foundation both that a bill be introduced in this upcoming session of the legislature to correct this situation by amending the existing law with another act to provide that interest accrued from the fund would revert back to the fund and become a part of it. This was our original intention and it is important that this be amended so that we can proceed with the mineral activity at Marsh Island and also to proceed to build up this perpetuation fund.

I would like to recommend that our Commission adopt a resolution supporting legislation to be introduced in this session to amend this



situation on Marsh Island.

MR. BERRY: So move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any objection?

(No response)

So ordered.

(Text of the resolution  
is here made a part of  
the record.)

WHEREAS, Act 47 of 1944, as amended by Act 157 of 1954, and further amended by Act 62 of 1971, established a Trust Fund to be derived from a portion of the revenues from oil, gas and mineral leasing on the Marsh Island Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve; and

WHEREAS, following the passage of the 1971 Statute, an interpretation was made by the State Treasurer's office which did not allow for the accrued interest on monies in the



Trust Fund to become a part of the fund but rather to be deposited in the State's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, it was not the intention of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, the State Mineral Board, The Russell Sage Foundation nor the Legislature that such a condition was to be applicable in this instance; and

WHEREAS, due to the reversionary rights of the Russell Sage Foundation, additional geophysical leasing and subsequent oil, gas and mineral development on Marsh Island have been prohibited until the intent of the Trust Fund is fully complied with,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is in favor of legislation being introduced during the 1973 regular session of the Legislature in order to correct the





situation to provide for the deposition of interest accrued on investments from the Marsh Island Perpetuation Fund into the Fund.

THE CHAIRMAN: Lyle St. Amant will talk about the proposed dredging in the Calcasieu River.

DR. LYLE ST. AMANT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, we have two items here this morning dealing with permits and leases. The first is a request for a permit to dredge for sand and fill material in the Calcasieu River at West Lake, three-quarters of a mile north of Highway I-10 by Rimmer & Garrett, Inc., General Contractors, of Rayne, Louisiana.

We have examined this request and find that it meets the requirements set forth by the Commission and therefore recommend the permit be granted.

MR. THOMPSON: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any objection? Any discussion?



(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution  
is here made a part of  
the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries  
Commission does hereby grant per-  
mission to Rimmer & Garrett, Inc.,  
General Contractors, to dredge in  
Calcasieu River at West Lake, 3/4  
mile north of I-10 Highway, Calcasieu  
Parish, Louisiana, for sand and/or  
fill material.

DR. ST. AMANT: The second item is a  
procedure by which an agreement has been drawn up  
between Radcliff Materials, Inc. and Ideal Basic  
Industries, Inc., whereby Radcliff desires to  
issue a permit under its Pointe-au-Fer lease to  
Ideal to take and remove shell and fill deposits  
from the area covered thereby on March 1, 1973.

Now Radcliff Materials holds a lease  
for dredging of oyster shells, known as the



Pointe-au-Fer lease. This area encompasses some 2,300 acres, and Radcliff has entered into an agreement with Ideal Basic Industries to allow them to dredge for shell in this area. Radcliff Materials requests that Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries ratify this agreement between Radcliff and Ideal. This is a standard procedure. All of our leases require that any such agreements be ratified by the Commission.

This procedure is normal and it is recommended that the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission so ratify the agreement. However, the Commission should make Radcliff and Ideal Industries aware of the fact that dredging in this area can only be carried out with the consent of the Louisiana Attorney General since certain portions of this area may be involved in establishing the base line along the shore in this area. At this time all the material has been presented to the Attorney General's office concerning this matter and an opinion should be forthcoming concerning the extent of dredging to be allowed.

I recommend that we ratify the agreement



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under these conditions.

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. LUTTRELL: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution  
is here made a part of  
the record.)

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby grant permission to Ideal Basic Industries, Inc., through its agreement with Radcliff Materials, Inc. under Pointe-au-Fer lease, to take and remove shell and shell deposits from the area covered thereby on March 1, 1973.

Dredging in this area can only be carried out with the consent of the Louisiana Attorney General since



certain portions of this area may be involved in establishing the base line along the shore in this area.

THE CHAIRMAN: Do you want to proceed with the shrimp matter now?

DR. ST. AMANT: O.K. Gentlemen of the Commission and gentlemen in the audience, we had a meeting last Thursday in Bourg, Louisiana, in which we went over in some detail the 1973 data on the shrimp crop. At that time we talked to a considerable portion of the industry and I expect to go over this material again today in a brief form so that those people here that did not see it can be informed.

Now, to start off with, I don't think there is anybody around that doesn't realize that 1973 is going to be an unusual year. It has been an unusually cold winter, a long cold spring, and we have got water everywhere. We have high, high rivers. We have had unusually heavy rainfalls and frequent rainfalls throughout the spring months, and this environmental problem that has developed is reflected in our shrimp data and in our



environmental data that we have collected.

Harry, I believe if you would point out these things, it would simplify the thing. First, I think if you look at water temperatures in the top graph, you will see that the 1973 water temperatures are at the very bottom. They are lower than they have been at any time in recent years. They are considerably lower than the 11-year average and they are way below the 1972 temperatures which, of course, were associated with a mild winter last year. We are looking at the two extremes. Last year we had a very mild situation and an early spring. This year we have just the opposite, an unusually cold winter, a long, cold spring and cold water temperatures.

Now, adding to this problem is the business of the high rivers, the flood conditions, and the excessive rainfall. Here again the bottom graph demonstrates the problem. In 1973 we find that the waters are much fresher. There is a lot less salt, and they are well below the 11-year average and extremely below the 1972 conditions, particularly later on in April and May. This is



a fact that none of us can control and we have to operate with.

Can we look at the next slide, please? This indicates the amount of acreage that we have lost from fresh water. Now this is not the river water. This is the rainfall only, and the bar graph on the far right, 1973, shows that we have less acreage than we had in 1972 and in the three previous years in our nursery grounds. We are somewhere about the same level we had in '69 but we are somewhat greater than we had in '64. If you recall, '64 was a pretty bad year. We only have a little better than about .7 million acres, I guess it is, in the nursery area, as opposed to well over a million last year and the year before. We have some loss up there, mainly from rainfall. This is not from the river flow.

Now if we can see the next slide, when we get in and around the river, we find something else happening. The graph on the right shows what happens to the salinities in and around the Mississippi River. This happens to be over behind the Bohemia Spillway, but the same thing is



happening in the Atchafalaya Basin, Four League Bay and those areas where great volumes of river water are moving out, and it will also happen in Lake Pontchartrain and probably Lake Borgne and the Mississippi Sound. The water drops down to practically fresh conditions, zero, and if you look at the other lines, you will see how this area looked in normal years. We have dropped our salinity considerably.

In other words, here is another condition to be added to the excess rains that we have had up in these areas that has resulted in sharp drops in the amount of salt in the air.

Can we look at the next slide? We have been working with the effects of the Mississippi River on shrimp production for some years now, and these graphs indicate that there is a relationship between the river stage and shrimp production. Now the top line represents high river stages. That is over one million cubic feet per second flow, and that is taken above all your discharges.

We didn't want to get involved in what went down Morganza and anything else, so these





river stages are measured up at Taubert Landing, which is up above all the outfall and represents the total volume of water coming down the river.

If the river is high, which is the top graph, we find that this occurred in the bad production years, which were 1957, 1959, 1961 and 1962. In the medium shrimp production years, we find the river was in a medium condition, somewhere between 600 and 800 thousand cubic feet per second, and our best shrimp production, in '57, '58, '61 and '62 -- now these are brown shrimp productions we are talking about -- we had the lowest rivers. This year our river stages are running above everything. They are around 1.3 million cubic feet per second, so if this follows, we can expect less production due to the excess amount of fresh water.

These graphs show that this doesn't necessarily apply for the whole year. It might be that we recuperate and have a good white season or we may not. What this shows is that in a good brown year and a poor white year, which is the broken line, we had low river stages in the early



part of the year, in the spring, and we had relatively high river stages in August and September. Now the water is always lower in August and September, so this is a relative thing.

In the years that we had poor brown catches and good white production, we had high rivers like we have now in the spring and then when the river did go down, it went down below normal in August and September and July, and then we came up with some pretty good white catches. This was 1963 and again in '64, so if the rivers decline and drop down into normal or below normal, we can then hope that we can come up with a reasonable white shrimp production later in the year.

Now we are going to talk about what we have out there in the way of shrimp. The funny thing about these data is that you have got a pretty good crop of shrimp moving in. These are the larval shrimp, on the very bottom line. You can see more of them moved in than in 1972 and even more than '71, so the shrimp came in. We can't say that they didn't arrive.

Let's look at the next slide, please.



This will confirm this. The 1973 production is the yellow curve. It is quite high, and we had a peak production in March. The 1972 production, which is the flatter line, was even less than this year, but the amount of these post-larvae moving in is not always the answer to a good year. You can look at those two high peaks, 1964 and '65. We had a tremendous amount of larvae moving in and yet something happened to them. Now we think in 1964 what happened, the shrimp came in too early. We had a lot of rain and cold weather and they died. When it came time to find the young ones, they weren't there.

In 1973 we have similar conditions that we had in '64. We have fresh water and cold temperatures, but the shrimp came in later, and we are going to find more of these will survive. How many remains to be seen.

May we see the next slide? This shows you what the shrimp sizes are right now. Now 40 millimeters is the biggest shrimp we are finding. These are in Barataria Bay, and this is about an inch and a half long. That is the biggest



stuff we are finding out of this crop. Everything else in Terrebonne and Timbalier and even out west, they are smaller than this. This runs somewhere, for your information, about 12 to 1500 to the pound, so they are a little bit too small to work with right now. They have got to move from at least 1200 to the pound to somewhere in the neighborhood of 90 to 100 to a pound before you can feel that you have a marketable shrimp.

May we look at the next one? This represents the growth rate, and here is the thing that is kind of worrying us a little bit. The top line represents the 1972 growth rate, which was pretty fast. It shows the size of the '72 shrimp as of this date in there. Now the 1973 crop is on the bottom line. It is just not growing as fast and they are smaller. That is the same state, same week in April, and they are considerably smaller than they were a year ago.

May we look at the next one, please? The catch, however, is good. You will see that the most shrimp are being caught in the Barataria Bay area, which is right in the center and it is



the one that is farthest away, pretty much, from the rivers where we have a lot of fresh water. The next highest bunch of shrimp are being caught in the Timbalier complex, and then over in the Terrebonne Bay-Pelto complex. Now that No. 5 is down because the western part of that Five, over toward the Atchafalaya system, has not been knocked out because of the fresh water and there is not as much shrimp there. Area 7 is Calcasieu. It is low. I am not too concerned about this, because that area usually runs three or four weeks late. It is possible that things will work out over on that side pretty well.

Let me see the next one. The average catch we are making in areas where shrimp do occur this year is surprisingly good. As a matter of fact, we are catching more shrimp per unit of effort in 1973 than we caught in '72. This indicates that where the shrimp are, there is a pretty good crop. It is just that they are not in many places. The acreage has been reduced and they are still small, but if nothing happens in that limited acreage of salt water where we do have shrimp, we should have a pretty good density and



when the season does open, you should make some pretty fair catches, until they are depleted, at least.

One interesting thing we ran into is shown there. Normally, this graph represents shrimping out in the deep bays, like out in the middle of Terrebonne Bay, Timbalier Bay, Barataria Bay. We usually run samples out there every year to see when these juvenile shrimp tend to move in there. In this time of year there usually are not very many. They are all back up in the marshes and in the very shallow waters, but in this year we are finding a high number of very tiny shrimp out in the open water bays, and we think what has happened here is that the fresh water has pushed them down. Your juvenile shrimp, even at this early, early stage, only about an inch or an inch and a half long, are out in this deep water, where they don't normally occur.

Let's try the next one.

MR. BERRY: Doctor, are they more subjected to fish eating them out here than they would be back in the bays?



DR. ST. AMANT: Possibly, Mr. Berry, but I suspect that, everything being equal, our biggest problem is not predation. It is going to be whether or not they survive the temperatures and fresh water. Shrimp are always subject to predation somewhere along their cycle and we just don't have the information on it.

Now, projecting the growth rate and projecting our shrimp crop on a growth rate of 1.5 millimeters per day, which is a pretty fast growth rate, but it is the one that we use each year, so we decided to use it to see what it looks like, these shrimp that we are looking at now, about 55 percent of them will be available for the market. They should be bigger than 100 count, probably down around 70-80 count, by May 28. At this time they will be growing very fast, and the week before that you would not expect to have more than ten percent projected available. That is how much change can occur.

We feel, without any other evidence to the contrary, that we can expect these shrimp to begin to grow this fast as soon as the water



temperatures get a little warmer, because each year, even in years when we have found this prior to now, we have found that they tend to catch up. There is a possibility that if the growth rate or the water temperatures stay down, then this projection would be incorrect, and by the end of May our shrimp would be quite small and really not usable.

But, under the law, the best we can recommend to the Commission today is that the season be opened on May 25, which is the latest possible date. Now in the past the industry has asked that the season be opened on Monday if possible. If you want to go to a Monday, you are going to have to go to May 21, so that would put you back at a period that they would be quite small.

My recommendation to the Commission this morning is that we go to the latest possible date, but if they see fit and if the industry so desires to open on a Monday, then they would have to go back to the 21st. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any comments from the





audience? Would you come up to the microphone and state your name, sir?

MR. LEO KERNER: My name is Leo Kerner. I am the Justice of the Peace of Lafitte, Barataria and Crown Point.

Gentlemen of this Commission, these are not the thoughts that I will express of the canners or the freezers or myself. These are the thoughts of the fishermen, successful fishermen, fishermen that derive 95 percent or more of their income, people who go out and catch these shrimp to make a living. I know at this time a lot of fishermen who have spoke during the past week are confused on account of the high water. This is something that we haven't had in maybe 30, 40 or maybe 100 years. We have never had water this high.

But common sense can tell you that the 25th of May is too late to open the shrimp season. If you think the trawlers are going to destroy the shrimp, how come in the month of April the Conservation was called here because they had violated in the inland waters? Why? Because they had large white shrimps to catch. You don't see



violating the law in December, in January and February and March. They do it in April and before this high water came we had large white shrimp, but when they open the season in May, will they have large white shrimp? No. Did the trawlers catch them? No. They didn't have nobody trawling. What happened to them? They went back home. That's what happened to them. They come from the Gulf at the mercy of the currents and they go back to the Gulf. Whenever they get large they are going back.

One thing I want to say, though. When certain ladies from the area where I live called the Conservation, the service was tremendous. They went in there to stop them from violating, and I want to compliment the Conservation here. I think they have really got a good one and I believe that they could really enforce the law because the way they acted when they was called was terrific.

If anybody in this room ever thinks that the inside waters of Louisiana will produce any large shrimps in quantittites, they are wasting



their time. It has never happened. It will never happen, because Louisiana produces small shrimp. Let's look at the State of Mississippi. We have got people moving in from Mississippi. Where? Into Louisiana, to can shrimp. Why? Because they don't have shrimp in Mississippi? No. Because they are too stupid to open them when they are there. That's the reason that every year they will tell you that there's a lot of shrimp in Gulfport and Biloxi but they are too small to catch, and then the Conservation will say, "Come in and catch them. They are large." But they don't have any.

Why? Because they come in at the mercy of the current and when the shrimps are large, they are going back where they come from. Inland waters don't have one iota to do with the shrimp. They haven't had any shrimp in the inland waters since January of this year, not enough to get medicine if you needed a pound. You could drop a trawl in Bayou Cuba and trawl it to Grand Lake in the month of February and March and you couldn't catch enough to make a medicine or a pack on a



boil. You have to rely on that Gulf of Mexico, and the day that the Gulf of Mexico does not provide the shrimps in inland waters, you are not going to have any shrimp in inland waters. If you put a levee that Gulf waters can't come into the Lake, you will never have a shrimp.

They have got water in Baton Rouge. Why they don't catch shrimp in Baton Rouge? They've got water at Shreveport. Why they don't catch shrimp in Shreveport? Why they don't catch shrimp in the Mississippi River? It is because you don't get the Gulf waters in there. That's why.

We used to open the shrimp in Louisiana on April 15 and for about five days you caught big white shrimp. Then you caught less big white shrimp and a few Brazilian, less white shrimp, more Brazilian. We went along with them to close April 15 and the law that you have on the books was the law that the fishermen made, and that was May 15 with a flexibility. We had a flexible law in there because at that time we didn't want to go later than May 15, but we could have went earlier, but we didn't want it, and I was one of them that



helped write that law in Louisiana.

Since, we have been opening the season around May 15, since 1964. Check the record. Check the record. That is the only thing you can live by. You can't live by the future because nobody can predict that. There ain't nobody here on this earth can predict the future, but we can go back from the past, and since we have been opening the season around May 15, we have been having good season on the inland waters. The only thing that disturbs me and a lot of the fishermen in the area is that when you start to open the season late and the shrimps are gone, who is going to take care of these fishermen who have had their boats tied up since December 20 of 1972? Do you think that those people can make a living trawling with about 30 days a year? It is impossible.

Now they have said that you might have a good white season. What is the difference, if you catch the shrimp brown or you catch the shrimp white? What is the difference, as long as you catch the shrimp. That is what you have to do.



What is the difference if you don't catch any brown and you wait to catch the white? Why wait when the shrimps are there?

The Justice of the Peace office has been in my family for about 80 years, and you can check all the records from my Granddad to myself and the only time of the year that you ever get violations for shrimp is in the month of April, the month of July and trawling small shrimps in the latter part of October and November and December. Why don't they trawl the rest of the months? Because they don't have the shrimps in the rest of the months. That's why. But in April you can catch a good white shrimp and a lot of them for about a week or ten days. In the month of July when they close it, that's when the Brazilians are large and those boys will go out there and catch a large Brazilian so they can make money. They get more for poundage.

In October and December there is a lot of small shrimp but they are undersized and why do they have a 68-count on those shrimp from the month of October on is beyond me, because I am 49 years old; I have been fooling with seafood



since I am 14 years old. I have never in my life yet saw the shrimp make the count in the latter part of October and November and December to any quantities in my lifetime, and I don't think anybody here has ever seen it, either.

So, I call on this Board to consider the people who catch the shrimp and I am not here representing the small boats or the large boats but I will have to admit that I am here representing the small boats today because they are involved. They are involved because the large boats have been trawling all the time. There is no law there against that. This season here is for the small boats and they have to rely on this season to make money, according to the last, past eight or ten years, because the August fishing has been very, very light.

So, I would ask you to take into consideration the small fishermen whose season begins now, whose boats have been tied up since December 20, 1972, who have depended more on this first fishing than the second fishing. These fishermen need sixty days and I ask you, the Commissioners



here, to set the season from May 15 to July 15.

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is there anybody else?

MR. CAMERON WEBSTER: I am Cameron Webster, president of Louisiana Shrimp Association. I would like to recommend to the Commission that all aspects of the industry, including the small boats as well as the large boats, the canners, the freezers, the drying platforms, the sportsmen, go along with Dr. St. Amant's recommendations.

First of all, Mr. Kerner is representing the small boats. Well, there are other people involved in the business besides the small boats. There are large boats, the sport fishermen, and what have you. Now, from what Dr. St. Amant has pointed out, we have less salinity in the water, higher water levels, smaller larvae. Everything points that opening the season earlier than the latest day possible is going to be a disaster economically.

Now, going back to Mr. Kerner's point of view, I sympathize with him and the small boat fishermen, that if they have sixty days to fish,





that they have to make a living. However, if they catch the shrimp too small, they can fish year round and can't make a living if they can't derive the income from this product.

Now if we go along with Dr. St. Amant's recommendation, we are not only looking at the potential of the season. We are also looking at the potential of the economic value of the product. If the shrimp are larger, we are going to get a larger dollar value for the product. Over the last eleven months, since May of '72, we have had a steady decline in shrimp production in the State of Louisiana. These figures from Dr. St. Amant's graph and things don't point that we are going to have an increase in production. They don't say we will. They don't say we won't, but we do know that all the factors are against us right now.

I feel and would like to recommend to the Commission and ask that possibly we set the date as late as possible if it can be done and perhaps a few days prior have another Commission meeting and have Dr. St. Amant review his recommendations and give us some more up-to-date, as



we near the opening of the season, up-to-date data, something to show us more what we are looking at.

When Dr. St. Amant stood up here a few minutes ago, opening up with his statement about dredging the Calcasieu River and the potential dredging of oyster shell, the Commission sat right here without a comment. He recommended that they accept his recommendation and they voted on it and passed it without any contrast whatsoever. Now here we are looking at our point of view from an economic value as well as a production value and I would like to see the Commission go along and accept Dr. St. Amant's recommendation as they did about the dredging of the oyster shells and the dredging of the Calcasieu River, without any questions asked. After all, he is the biologist. If he is going to make recommendations and we are not going to accept them, then we should do away with the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, our chief marine biologist, and put our money on the highways or building the levees to protect ourselves from the water.



I recommend for the Louisiana Shrimp Association that we go along with Dr. St. Amant's recommendation of May 25 and perhaps several days prior have another Commission meeting and review the later data that Dr. St. Amant would have at this time. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any other comments?

MR. KERNER: I just want to correct one thing. He said I represent the small boats and that is wrong. We represent small and big boats and we spend more money to buy from big boats than we do from small boats, but we don't represent either side.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

MR. CYRUS SEVIN: I am Cyrus Sevin, representing Coastal Parish Shrimpers Association.

Mr. Chairman and Members of this Commission, the recommendation of the Coastal Parish Shrimpers Association is for this Commission to call a special meeting in the first week of May to give an opportunity to the biologists and also to the fishermen to make more testing, because at



this present time the water is too high for any testing to be done that will produce any good data, I believe, and I believe if this Commission would wait and not make a hasty decision today, I think it could get better information in the first week in May. This is our recommendation. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Anybody else?

MR. QUENTIN QUAVIS: My name is Quentin Quavis. I am also from Lafitte, also an elected official of Lafitte, businessman, vice-president of Lafitte Trawlers, Inc. We have two large boats and we have two more coming and two more in the future, but most of my business is association with the fishing industry, not being a fisherman myself.

My Dad was in the fishing business and bought shrimp from 1947 until 1963, I think, and I was looking at some of his records and it shows that your inland waters do not have a large shrimp. Even when he bought shrimp in April, he did not have large shrimp, and when he bought them after they violated, after the season was closed, you still had the small shrimp.

We cannot sit up here and decide on a



date. I have to agree with Mr. Sevin that it is too early to make a decision because there are too many variables that were pointed out. I would also like at this time to break a little bit and commend Dr. St. Amant for his job that he has been doing. He is doing a well deserved job, deserves a lot of good credit.

Anyway, for the majority of our people and our community, to benefit them mostly, who I do business with, I have to stick with Mr. Kerner's recommendation of the 15th or around there, but I still say we ought to go with the Coastal Association and wait a little while and get some more data. Let's see if this condition of the water is stable or if it is going to go down to normal. We cannot get up here and make a date unless we can teach the shrimp to read the calendar. I have said this before, before this Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

We have to do something, and I think when you do make decisions, the last three years that I have known of the season, you had a larger shrimp and a better shrimp at the end of the season



when it was closed. If you remember, there was about ten days last season that you had a lot of violations and a lot of people made money, which they wasn't stopped last year, I know particularly in our area. I think whatever date you've got, leave yourself open to add an extension for ten or twelve days after the season, and I don't think ten or twelve days beyond the season is going to hurt anything. Let them catch the shrimp when they are there. Don't wait for them to get big in inland waters, because they are not. Let them catch the shrimp when they are there.

Gentlemen, my recommendation, my opinion on here is to hold back on this recommendation until we get a more favorable condition, and if you don't, I also recommend that we open it around the 15th of May. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

MR. EMILE LA PEYRE, JR.: I am Emile LaPeyre, Jr., Grand Caillou Packing Company, Terrebonne Parish. It has been a number of years now since Dr. St. Amant and the biologists have been studying this condition. The law provides



a flexible opening between May 1 and May 25. The concept is that the season is supposed to open according to the natural conditions that prevail. This is what we have done, I think, largely in the past. It strikes me completely ridiculous to have Dr. St. Amant and his biologists to compile all this sophisticated data and then disregard the facts presented.

As I understand it, there is very little room for equivocation. Dr. St. Amant can correct me. I believe the factors, the critical factors this year, are later than we have ever experienced since he has been operating this program. Am I correct, Doctor?

DR. ST. AMANT: Yes.

MR. LA PEYRE: Your growth rate, your salinity and temperature are as critically behind as we have ever experienced since you have been working this program. Is that correct? I presume that is the basis for his recommendations. As a matter of fact, reading between the lines, if the law would provide, I would judge that Dr. St. Amant would probably recommend an even later date.



Now there is some mention with respect to sixty days. As I understand the law, if it is opened on the 25th, it doesn't have to close before July 25, is that correct? So, as far as sixty days, we are still going to get sixty days.

I certainly would not look upon the idea of a later evaluation, I would not be against looking at a later picture, but if we are not going to do that, it strikes me that recognizing the size of the shrimp, the growth rate, the salinity and temperatures involved, in my judgment it would be reckless and indiscreet to try and make any different recommendations than Dr. St. Amant has made here today. It makes no sense to continue these evaluations if we are not going to look at the data as it is presented and make an educated judgment.

Therefore, we recommend what Dr. St. Amant recommends. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

MR. NERVY COLLINS: I am Nervy Collins with Quality Seafood Company. I came here to ask for the 15th, 14th or 15th, on a Monday. If not





the 14th or 15th on a Monday, no later than the 21st, that it opens on a Monday.

I would like to see it open around that time, since all the time it has been opened around the 14th or 15th, we have had good years, but later than that, when it opened for the 22nd at one time, we had one of the lowest years, I believe.

I recommend to you all that if we can't get it for the 14th or 15th, open it up for the 21st. Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Any other comments?

FROM THE FLOOR: I would like to ask Dr. St. Amant to give us his survey of the later the season opens, what would --

MR. BERRY: Would you come to the microphone, please, and state your name?

MR. LEROY KIEFER: My name is Leroy Kiefer and I am a fisherman, and I would like for Dr. St. Amant to give us his survey on how much shrimp was brought in when the season was opened late or early, whether more shrimp was brought in early or late.

DR. ST. AMANT: That is a good question.



That is just what I asked my friend Mr. Perret. We have those figures, but unfortunately we don't have them in graph form. If you will accept my word for it, I think we can demonstrate it.

The amount of shrimp caught in the month of May, in pounds, millions of pounds, makes little difference when you open it. We have records back for the past six, eight, ten years. If you don't take our records, I recommend you go and check with the U. S. Commercial Fisheries people. You will find that the latest date we opened the shrimp season, if I remember rightly, was about the 27th, 25th or something. They caught as many pounds of shrimp in the last three, four or five days of May as they did when we opened it on the 15th.

We have always caught more shrimp since we have been opening on the 15th or later. There have been people in here today, asking for the 15th, that want May 1 in most years. All we have done is switch this thing up 15 days. It is just a matter of where the shoe fits.

I would like to make one other comment



while I am here. This business of re-evaluating is perfectly all right with us, if this is the desire of the industry and the Commission. I would hesitate to try to give you an evaluation in one week, though, on May 1. There is not going to be enough change in one week for us to show you any measurement. Now if you want to re-evaluate around the 12th or 14th, you might have something that would give you a little better indication of what the story was, but to try to do it on a one week change is not enough to waste your time and mine to come in here. You are going to see essentially the same thing.

MR. BERRY: Dr. St. Amant, the best information I get from the Corps of Engineers, and I live in the Morgan City area; we are kind of concerned about the high water over there, as you have probably seen on television -- I am told we have got another 45 days of high water, at least, to contend with in the Mississippi and Atchafalaya Rivers. Don't you think that will keep things more stable as you see them now, as you projected them?



DR. ST. AMANT: I can't see how we are going to get any relief in another two or three weeks. I think one thing you should keep in mind now, the high water reduces the amount of area you are going to be able to find shrimp in. Every time you increase the amount of water, what you are doing is having less and less acreage of salt water where the shrimp are, so what the high water does is reduce the size of the area you are going to be able to find shrimp in.

The cold temperatures are what is slowing the growth rate down on these shrimp and making them so tiny that right now you can't catch the brown shrimp in the trawls, they are so little. We feel and we hope that temperatures will go up. If they do, you can probably have some shrimp toward the end of May, the 25th, along in there, and we feel that in those areas where the water is salty -- and I will agree with these people from Lafitte; they are right in the slot, because wherever there is going to be any shrimp in this coast, it is going to be in Barataria Bay and it is going to be right down in that area and over



back of Leeville. When these two spots go out, you don't have any shrimp.

That is where the shrimp are, but they are not very big, and if you are going to even -- I agree with them; they don't ever get very big, but you had better get them up to at least 100 count or nobody can use them. This is what we are shooting at. We are not shooting for big shrimp. These things are based on 100-count shrimp and 100-count shrimp isn't very big. Unless our figures are real bad, and we could be wrong, you are not going to have any percentage of shrimp out there that will even make 100 count before well after May 21. We are trying to give you the best advice, but it is up to the Commission to make a decision and, of course, it is up to the industry to accept these decisions if they would like to.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Kerner, I certainly appreciate your recommendation. I appreciate what you have had to say and I know you have put a lot of effort and thought into what you did say. Mr. Sevin and Mr. Quavis, I appreciate what you had to



say and I appreciate the fact that you think to evaluate this thing a little later on might be in the best interest of the shrimping industry, but I believe in view of the high water we have got coming for the next 45 days, to wait to evaluate this thing would be futile.

In view of this and in view of my high esteem for Dr. St. Amant and for his biologists -- and I know that they know what they are doing -- I am going to make a motion that we open the shrimp season on May 25. Is there a second on that?

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I would like to second that motion.

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, I would like to amend that motion to read that in the event, or if Dr. St. Amant finds any that this should change either way, forward or backward, that he have the power to recommend that he call the Commission back into session, on his recommendation and his findings, if and when he finds them.

MR. BERRY: I second that.

MR. COLLINS: That 25th is going to wind up on a Friday, right?



THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, the 25th is on a Friday.

MR. COLLINS: Well, that is the first time I ever see that they open on a Friday.

MR. BERRY: This is the first time we have had high water like this in over 100 years, and that counts your lifetime.

MR. COLLINS: Suppose we get plenty shrimp and the shrimp comes in and you load up, the factories are going to have to work overtime and not close down.

MR. BERRY: I don't know. I work seven days a week in my business. I don't know how you operate yours, but I work when the work is there.

MR. COLLINS: But you can't work seven days a week; you can't work people more than 60 hours.

MR. BERRY: Is your shrimp factory open now?

MR. COLLINS: No, they are closed because we don't have no shrimp.

MR. BERRY: That's what I thought.

MR. COLLINS: But when you got it, you



can work so much and that's it. Now what is going to happen here on a Friday and you got them piled up, like I already had from 800 to 11-hundred thousand I had at the factory at one time and they couldn't work it. You know what happens? They used to turn me down and send me back as much as three trucks a day and I couldn't catch up with it.

MR. BERRY: Well, I am very sorry we can't work all your personal problems for you.

MR. COLLINS: You will have about 50,000 spoiling there. Besides that, you are going to have your factory that is going to work Saturday and then Saturday and Sunday we will have to pile them up. What is going to happen then?

I mean, I will go along with the 21st with Dr. St. Amant but not the 25th, at the end of the week. It is impossible.

MR. BERRY: Well, Dr. St. Amant recommended the 25th. Mr. Chairman, you have a motion and it has been duly seconded. I call for the question.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Luttrell.





MR. COLLINS: That's terrible. That's the worst thing I ever did hear.

MR. THOMPSON: Remember, my amendment to the motion is that if anything changes, Dr. St. Amant has it in his power to call this Commission back into session, to change it in any way, whether it is Monday, Wednesday or what.

MR. KERNER: You need some shrimp people on that board. I want to tell you all something right now --

MR. THOMPSON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Chairman, I demand that this thing be handled in an orderly fashion. If he has something to say, ask him to come to the microphone.

THE CHAIRMAN: Please come to the mike.

MR. KERNER: I would like to say one thing. There is one thing I would like to say. I will tell you how disgraceful this thing is. When you open the season on a Friday, I don't believe that anybody who fished a day in his life would ever recommend to open something on a Friday when the factories don't work on a Sunday.

Let me tell you this. Last year when



they opened the season, I think it was May 17, the shrimp was smaller on June 17 than they was on May 17 and Dr. St. Amant knows it because I called him and told him to come check them.

MR. BERRY: But that one area you have, the Barataria area, doesn't cover the whole thing.

MR. KERNER: But I represent the whole state of Louisiana. I am co-chairman of the fishermen and trappers of this state and I have had people call me in the last few days from Cameron, from Delacroix Island and from all over this state, asking to get an earlier date than the 25th. No, sir, I have been chairman since 1964, statewide chairman of the fishermen and trappers.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Kerner, I have also had calls and so have other Commission members, asking for the 25th. Of course, you have a 100-year situation with water you haven't had before, either.

MR. KERNER: Oh, every time we have high water, we have a better shrimp season. That's what brings the shrimp in, is the high water. Every time you have got a storm, you have got shrimp in



WHEREAS, in accordance with the law established in the Revised Statutes, Title 56, Section 497, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission is authorized to open and close annually the brown shrimp season, and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission has reviewed the requests of the fishermen, industry and sportsmen, as well as the biological predictions and recommendations of the biologists of the Oysters, Water Bottoms and Seafoods Division.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare the spring brown shrimp season to open at 12:01 A.M. on Friday, May 25, 1973, and continue until midnight, on Monday, July 23, 1973.

the high water.

MR. BERRY: Well, a storm is one thing. High water from rains up the river, fresh water, is another thing, Mr. Kerner. If you have got a storm, it comes out of the Gulf. That's where it comes from.

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. How about the Commission resolution pertaining to the flood crisis? Is that coming up. Dr. St. Amant.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Herring has that.

MR. KERNER: Is that definite now, for the 25th?

MR. BERRY: That's right, the 25th.

MR. KERNER: You are just looking for people to violate the law.

MR. BERRY: When you violate the law, if the men catch you, they are going to arrest you. It is just that simple.

(Inaudible remarks from the floor.)

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, did you get a formal vote on that motion?

THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, we have a formal vote. It is passed.



MR. KERNER: Next year they are going to want it July 25.

THE CHAIRMAN: Joe Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Due to the flood disaster we have been having in our state, a poll was made of the Commission early in April to make personnel, equipment and facilities available for flood work at the discretion of our Director. Since that time we have moved personal belongings from homes, catttle and wildlife, and I would like to ask at this time that we have a ratification on the action previously taken.

MR. LUTTRELL: Mr. Chairman, I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: Moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution  
is here made a part of  
the record.)

WHEREAS, the Wild Life and  
Fisheries Commission has traditionally



offered every possible assistance in coping with conditions brought about by natural disasters in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the flood crises presently existing have adversely affected many of the State's citizens as well as the wildlife resources in the delta, marshland and river regions of Louisiana, and

WHEREAS, a poll of the members of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission taken in April 1973 resulted in a determination that the personnel, equipment and facilities of the Commission would be made available for assistance in flood-damaged areas as may be determined by the Director;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby ratify the action taken in April 1973 authorizing the Director to utilize the personnel, equipment and facilities



of the Commission as he may deem necessary and wherever possible in reducing flood damage to citizens, communities and parishes of Louisiana, as well as in the protection of the State's wildlife resources.

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, this work has gone on, we might say, from Monroe to the Gulf of Mexico, and we would also like to thank the news media for the excellent coverage that they have been giving us at this time on it.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, I would like for you to again call for a vote on the motion to open the shrimp season on the 25th and also for a vote on the amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: You want to call for a confirmation of that?

MR. BERRY: Yes, sir, and also for a vote on the amendment.

(Commission Chairman Jerry G.

Jones here assumed the Chair.)

THE CHAIRMAN: All right. For the amendment.



MR. THOMPSON: The amendment is that Dr. St. Amant call us back in session if need be before the 25th.

THE CHAIRMAN: All in favor?

(Amendment unanimously passed.)

MR. BERRY: Then call for a vote on whether to open the shrimp season on the 25th.

THE CHAIRMAN: The motion is now that we open it on the 25th of May. All in favor, raise your hands.

(Show of hands; unanimously passed.)

THE CHAIRMAN: It is unanimous.

The next item on the agenda is Item No. 5, ratify the closing of the turkey season in Point Coupee Parish. Who is going to handle that? Joe? Are you going to handle that?

MR. HERRING: Mr. Chairman, due to the flooded conditions we have had in Point Coupee Parish, upon calling the Commission members, we did close the turkey season in that area. All of the turkey habitat, we might say, was flooded in this area during the opening of the Morganza spillway gates, so we would like to ask ratification





at this time of the action that we had in closing the turkey season for that area.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation.

MR. LUTTRELL: I so move.

MR. BERRY: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Luttrell, seconded by Mr. Berry. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

(Text of the resolution  
is here made a part of  
the record.)

WHEREAS, the opening of the Morganza floodway will flood approximately 70,000 acres of prime wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, this area has approximately 300 turkey, results of a Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries stocking program in Point Coupee Parish, and



WHEREAS, with the flooding of the Morganza floodway these birds will be driven to trees and levee tops, and

WHEREAS, they will be easy prey for individuals desiring to kill them,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission's poll taken on April 16, 1973 to close the turkey season in that area known as D as described in the 1972-73 Louisiana Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations, be ratified, effective time of closure to be 12:00 midnight, April 16, 1973.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Motor boats. Mr. Campbell.

MR. HURLEY CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Commission, the federal government in 1971 passed the boating act which requires the registration of any boat powered by a motor of any kind. They gave the states three years in which to enact legislation of their own so they



handle the act and collect the fees, et cetera. We have until '74 but at this time we are asking that the Commission authorize us to go before the legislature in May to pass this boating act, effective July 1, 1974, in order that we can set up the mechanics of handling the boating act.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have heard the recommendation. What is your pleasure?

MR. BERRY: I so move.

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Thompson. Is there any further discussion? Any objection?

(No response)

Hearing none, so ordered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Who is going to handle No. 8, pertaining to the issuing authority legislation as it pertains to sport hunting and sport fishing licenses? Larry Cook, are you going to handle the business about the legislation as it pertains to the licenses?

MR. LARRY COOK: I think Peter Duffy will do that, and I think Peter and I will have to



get together at some later date and discuss this proposed legislation.

THE CHAIRMAN: You don't have any action for us to take at this time, do you?

MR. COOK: No, sir.

THE CHAIRMAN: O.K., we will eliminate that item from the agenda.

Is there any other business to come before the Commission? Mr. Buquet.

MR. A. J. BUQUET: Mr. Chairman, could anybody in the Commission give us a report on what is happening to the game in the Morganza Floodway?

THE CHAIRMAN: Mr. Herring.

MR. HERRING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Buquet. We have had about 125 of our personnel out in this area working and we have probably in there saved or manhandled about 600 deer, bringing them out, and we feel like hundreds of more got over the levee to safety, which as soon as this water gets out, these deer will go back. Rabbits, we got quite a few out. A lot of rabbits did get out. The raccoon, squirrel and turkeys are more or less staying in the trees at



this time, because of the flooding conditions, and they will make out very well until the water goes down.

This opening of the Morganza Spillway was a little bit different than normal flooding conditions. The normal flooding conditions we have had up in the central part of the state are a gradual process. As the water goes up, the wildlife does have a tendency to move out and kind of stay ahead of it. Opening the gates at Morganza more or less overtook a lot of wildlife. We had all of this water, wham, coming down at one time and it really stranded a lot of the deer and other species that couldn't take to the trees or get out.

That was one of the main reason we went into a rescue operation on this, to try and help those that were actually stranded in these currents and got caught in the drifts and tried to get to the high ground.

As far as making a determination at this time of what actual effect this flood has had on wildlife, we haven't set any numbers as to what has been drowned. We have a crew in there today



making a survey and just for convenience purposes, we divided the floodway in this particular part up into three areas. We called Area 1 from Morganza to the T-P Railroad; Area 2 was from the T-P Railroad to Highway 190; and Area 3 was south of 190. The crews are in today in Area 1 working, i.e., from T-P Railroad to Morganza. They will be working tomorrow in Area 2, then, from T-P down to Highway 190, and then Thursday they will be working in Area 3, south of 190.

We hope by doing this we can get some indication of what has been drowned in the area and what is still stranded. The water is dropping out now. They have cut the gates down to eleven gates open and we have had about a four-foot drop in this area, so there is a lot of ground exposed which some of these animals can come back to now.

We have noticed at night and working on the levee that a lot of the animals that have been moved over the levee are having a tendency to come back and you might say just check the water to see if they can go back home. Most of those animals that did go over the levee, most of them that were



moved will naturally return back to their home range, because this is where they are from and they will try to return back here.

Really at this time until we get some indication from the surveys that we are trying to make, we could hardly say what has been killed. You would look on the levees and see one deer and one going over by itself and another group, I think 98 was the most counted at one time. So, we know that a lot of the wildlife did get out and we know that our personnel did manhandle and bring out a lot by boats that were swimming and stranded because these animals had a tendency to go with the current, even though it would be maybe 200 yards out in the spillway area and they could, you might say, see the levees, they would not necessarily swim to the levee. It was kind of a course of least resistance. They would swim on with the water until they fatigued and possibly drowned there, so that was one thing, we were trying to get those animals.

That is about it, Mr. Buquet. If you have any questions, two or three of us here have



been there every day since it happened and we would certainly be glad to answer any questions you have on this particular area.

MR. THOMPSON: Joe, you might tell them that the water rose in one day nine feet. That was the day that they closed the locks to repair the gate that went into the east side of the spillway, and in that day that they were closed and they were immediately reopened, the water at Highway 190 -- that is the only place I have reference to -- rose nine feet and the velocity of the current, which I have no way to calculate, was much, much in excess of -- I think they had predicted a mile and a half, was that correct? What would you estimate the velocity of the water at 190?

MR. HERRING: Probably four to five in the woods. What happened on that, we had been kind of planning for this. It wasn't anything that really took us by surprise. Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was preparing for something like this and we did have a meeting Monday of our personnel and we called the Corps of Engineers to find out actually how much water





they were going to let through. They told us at this time that they would open one-fourth of the gates, so this would put water then in the wooded area, they said, about a mile and a half velocity there, stream flow. They said out in the channel it would be going about five to six miles per hour.

But, instead of opening one-fourth, they opened one-third. Now there is a good bit of difference in one-fourth and one-third with your water velocity, and so what it did, as Mr. Thompson just said, the water velocity was much greater in the wooded area then. It was probably about three to four, maybe five miles there in the woods and this was pretty swift. Out in the channel it was probably 12 or 15 miles per hour or possibly greater.

This is the thing then that, instead of a gradual buildup of the water, you just had one wall of water coming through. It would be like a dam breaking. Some of these areas you read about out west, it was just one wall of water that came down and started passing through the basin, and it just virtually took over what was in there.

Does that cover most of what you had



there, Mr. Thompson?

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

THE CHAIRMAN: I just want to add one comment, Joe, from the Board, that we certainly appreciate and I know the people of this State appreciate the immediate action which your people took, all the people with the Commission, in moving into this area and doing what you did.

MR. HERRING: I would like to kind of clear up something. We had a lot of requests from individuals to come in and help, Mr. Chairman, and we would like to thank those people. I suppose we must have on our desk, we have got to return calls to these people, maybe 200 calls where clubs called in, individuals called in, wanting to assist. We used our personnel because most of our people are used to handling deer and other wildlife, and a lot of people don't realize that little Bambi is a pretty dangerous animal in a frantic condition. Unless you know how to really pick up a deer, get his legs out of the water in the right way, tie him up, you can get an arm broken or a leg broken or ribs broken. This has



happened. Eyes put out, what have you. We used our personnel altogether who are fairly used to handling animals in these conditions and we got out of the whole operation with no one getting hurt. We felt like if we had called a lot of individuals then or let people, you might say go rampant in the area, we would not have had much coordination and we could have possibly had someone hurt in there.

It worked out very well and we certainly appreciate all the offers that we have had from everyone, but there were enough of our people there to pretty well keep it under control. We certainly thank everyone.

MR. BERRY: Mr. Chairman, are you aware of the fact that these people worked around the clock without any extra pay or overtime?

THE CHAIRMAN: They did.

MR. HERRING: That's right, and you would be surprised at our Commission personnel that volunteered. We had people from Minden working on this, Monroe, I mean people that were not involved. We had people from all over the state,



just calling in, wanting to come on down, so there was no problem getting volunteers. We had enough people, and we had others standing by in case we needed to move on down, and they were working on 12-hour shifts. We worked 12 hours on and 12 hours off, and many of these people just went on 18 hours a day. Even our Director -- some of them got to wondering when he went to sleep because he was there in the morning when one shift came on and he was still there the next night when another shift went off or came on.

It was just a matter of everybody those few days really working on that thing and accomplishing what we went out to do.

MR. BERRY: This kind of effort just goes to prove that this is still a great country to live in.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Joe.

MR. HERRING: I might say again to the news media, we couldn't have gotten better coverage, and we thank all of the news people that are here today and all of them that did come up, because we got excellent coverage on it. Thank you.



THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

MR. THOMPSON: I move that we adjourn.

THE CHAIRMAN: It has been moved by Mr. Thompson that the meeting be adjourned.

. . . Thereupon, at 11:10 o'clock  
a.m., Tuesday, April 24, 1973,  
the monthly Board Meeting of the  
Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries  
Commission was adjourned. . . .

